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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON) at 1 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.

AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 1646, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT FISCAL YEARS 2002 AND 2003

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today a "Dear Colleague" letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules is planning to meet the week of May 7 to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on H.R. 1646, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 2002 and 2003. The bill was ordered reported by the Committee on International Relations yesterday, and therefore is expected to be filed tomorrow.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment should submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a brief explanation to the Committee on Rules in room H-312 in the Capitol no later than noon on Tuesday, May 8.

Amendments should be drafted to the text of H.R. 1646 as ordered reported by the Committee on International Relations. That text is available at the Committee on International Relations and will be posted on its Web site tomorrow.

Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING A REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO THE SAME DAY CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS REPORTED BY THE RULES COMMITTEE

Mr. GOSS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-56) on the resolution (H.Res. 131) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY,
MAY 7, 2001

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, we have been here for a very long time for what is no longer today, but yesterday and today. We have been told we were going to have the budget. Members have been around since about 10:30 or 11 this morning when we had a vote. We were told we were going to have a budget. It does seem to me that minimal respect for the opinion of mankind would call for some explanation of why we are, having spent the day doing nothing, why we are now going to end it by waiting until Monday.

I would be glad to yield to the gentleman from Florida, or anyone else, not what happened, but what did not happen, why it did not happen, and what might happen on Monday or Tuesday.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts for yielding, and I would inform the gentleman from Massachusetts that we are all saddened that we have not been able to complete all of the business we had originally anticipated for today because of the complexity of the business, and the procedures for working out conference reports with our colleagues in the other body.

These matters require a great deal of observation of the technical rules involving conference reports, and that process has taken longer than expected.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry that the gentleman is saddened. I hate to see my colleague's discountenance. There are a few other people not too thrilled about spending about 15 hours here while people fiddled with this thing.

I was struck by his telling us there is a complexity here. In the first year of the gentleman being in the majority, I would have understood that, but at this point, was there any unexpected complexity? We had a budget and a conference committee. It is very hard to understand what new complexity suddenly descended upon you which left you unable to cope with what has heretofore been a fairly routine set of procedures. Perhaps there is some new show on which the ship of state might be sailing that has resulted. This has not happened in my experience, this sort of nonperformance.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield to the gentleman. Would you tell us what this complexity was? Was there something new that happened?

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Mr. GOSS. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I think that the complexity of a conference report is well known be-

cause we are dealing with another body and there are different points of view that need to be accommodated which is, of course, the purpose of a conference report and getting all of the exact language spelled out properly and out in time to accommodate all of the other schedule that we have to do here.

Mr. FRANK. Could I ask the gentleman, was it the other body that lost the two pages that resulted in our not being here or who lost the two pages, I would ask the gentleman?

I do not mean the human pages, I mean the paper pages. I want to assure all parents that all pages are present and accounted for. It is pages from the conference report that apparently were too complex for the majority to keep track of.

Mr. GOSS. I believe that those are somewhat complicated pages that were very carefully negotiated in the conference report and certainly to get them exactly correct, they have not been lost, actually if the gentleman has them, he has found them.

Mr. FRANK. No, I was waving some whip notice just for the heck of it. That was purely a dramatic gesture. Nobody on our side has seen the budget, including the missing pages.

Mr. GOSS. Actually the Committee on Rules has seen them.

Mr. FRANK. I apologize. A half-hour ago the Committee on Rules got to see the budget that we were supposed to have voted on 10 or 12 hours ago.

I would just say to the gentleman, I think we ought to be clear. We have here a problem not of complexity but of basic physics. The majority has, as many of us have been saying for some time, constructed a budget in which the whole is significantly smaller than the sum of the parts and in the process of trying to jam those parts into that small hole, apparently things came apart. It is unfortunate that Members' time was so wasted all day and that we have accomplished nothing and we have to come back next week. I hope you find the pages, I hope you master the complexity and I hope that this kind of performance is not again repeated.

I withdraw my reservation of objection, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, not being a member of the Committee on Rules, I want to verify that the information that we heard from the Committee on Rules is indeed correct. That it was not possible to proceed tonight because the report filed around midnight which had earlier been promised to be delivered sometime this morning representing the budget of the United States to be agreed upon by this House today was missing two critical pages, in fact the